RG104 entry 217 box 1

Mint of the United States.

Phila. Sept. 21st 1864.

Hon. Wm. P. Fessenden.

Sec. Treasury.

Sir,

I received this morning the following Telegram from the Superintendent of the Branch Mint at San Francisco.

"Hon James Pollock, Phila, - The Treasurer considers that most of the fifty thousand sent him on account of deficiency appropriation, for wages of workmen must be applied to Contingent Expenses, hence workmen who have received nothing for six (6) months cannot be paid. We need authority for him to pay out of any funds on hand, as directed by Mr Chase, April second. The case is very urgent. Telegraphed Sec'y. of the Treasury August 24th, and no answer.

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"Currency having depreciated, an advance in wages will be necessary. Will you sanction such as may be absolutely unavoidable. R. B. Swain, Supt" — Knowing the urgent nature of the case I replied as follows.

To R. B. Swain. Supt &c. — Telegram received. Will sanction the advance suggested. When appropriation for wages fails, we pay out of the Contingent fund. You can do the same. Will write to the Secretary" — In view of the facts presented in Mr Swains telegram. I respectfully request that the necessary authority be given to the Treasurer of the Br. Mint. San Francisco. to pay the workmen out of any funds on hand, and that the Supt be empowered to increase the wages of workmen, as far as it is absolutely necessary.

With great respect
Yr. obt. Servt
J. A. Pollock
Director